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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shin-ichi NAKAO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1713

Application No.: 09/737,763

Examiner: W. CHEUNG

Filed: December 18, 2000

Docket No.: 108131

For: REACTION AND STIRRING APPARATUS, REACTION AND SEPARATING FILTRATION APPARATUS AND SEPARATING METHOD, GENERATION METHOD, AND FILTRATION METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 27, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-16 and 31-36, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement as claims 23-28 are linking claims respectively linking the method of claims 17-22 with the apparatus of claim 9. Therefore, should claim 9 be allowed, claims 23-28 which include all the features of claim 9 should be rejoined and examined for patentability. Further, claims 29 and 30 are dependent claims of claim 9.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-36 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an

entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office especially in view of the existence of the linking claims.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 22, 2004

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